

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the interview conducted on April 19, 2010. The substance of the interview is reflected in the remarks below.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-10 are pending, with all claims remaining rejected based on the same prior art as applied in the previous Office Action. More specifically, claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,905,176; hereinafter "Schulz"), and claim 6 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Read et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,353,243; hereinafter "Read").

Applicant continues to respectfully traverse the prior art rejections for the following reasons.

Independent claim 3 recites "A digital integrated circuit comprising: an asynchronous circuit, and means for time-varying a supply voltage of said asynchronous circuit ..., wherein said means for time-varying said supply voltage comprises a random number generator."

Independent claim 3 therefore requires a random number generator that is used to time-vary a supply voltage.

In contrast, Schulz discloses the opposite of what is recited in independent claim 3. In Schulz, rather than a pseudo random number being used to vary a supply voltage, a variable supply voltage is used to change a rate of production of pseudo random numbers.

More specifically, Schulz discloses that "The frequency of the voltage variation ... is produced by noise on the power supply and supply lines itself, and is also produced by on-chip noise sources 40' ..." See Schulz, column 4, lines 30-33; and Figures 1 and 2. It is therefore clear that Schulz's voltage variation is a result of noise from the chip, and not caused by a random number generator as required by independent claim 3.

Further, Schulz discloses providing the time-varied supply voltage to feedback shift register 42. The time-varied supply voltage causes the feedback shift register 42 to output an asynchronous serial random number. See Schulz, column 2, lines 24-31, and Figure 1. Again, this is opposite to what is recited in independent claim 3, that is that a random number generator is used to time-vary a supply voltage.

Independent claim 3 is therefore patentable over Schulz for at least these reasons.

Since amended independent claim 1 includes limitations similar to the limitation discussed above with respect to independent claim 3, it is patentable over Schulz for at least the same reasons. Claims 5 and 7-10 depend from the independent claims, and are therefore patentable over Schulz for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 6, which depends on independent claim 3, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the additional Read reference. Read is not cited to cure Schulz's deficiencies, but rather for its disclosure of another feature, which, whether or not it does disclose, fails to cure the noted deficiencies in Schulz. Thus dependent claim 6 is patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence on independent claim 3.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections are respectfully requested.

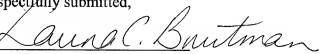
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

In the event a fee is required or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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